



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines

Speaker Biographies



The Honorable Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds

Kimberly (Strawn) Reynolds grew up in St. Charles, IA, located in Madison County, and was educated at the Interstate-35 school district in Truro, graduating in 1977. She attended Northwest Missouri State University, where she majored in Business Administration & Marketing. She also earned education credits from Southeastern Community College and Southwestern Community College.

On April 3, 1982, she married Kevin Reynolds, and the couple lived in the Iowa communities of Oakland and Mount Pleasant, where she worked as a pharmacist assistant before moving to Osceola in 1990.

Reynolds began work as a motor vehicle clerk in the Clarke County Treasurer's Office and was elected Clarke County Treasurer in 1994. In this position, she took a very active role at the local, state and national levels. In 2000, she served as President of the Iowa State Treasurers Association. Reynolds continued her statewide leadership through her work on a three-person policy team that was instrumental in the implementation of the Iowa State County Treasurers Association website, using a self-funded model that offered online service at no or minimal cost to all Iowa counties. In 2004, Reynolds received the Victor Martinelli "Outstanding County Treasurer in the United States" award.

She successfully ran for re-election as Clarke County Treasurer in 1998, 2002 and 2006.

Reynolds served as Clarke County Treasurer until she was elected to the Iowa Senate in 2008, representing Adams, Clarke, Decatur, Montgomery, Ringgold, Taylor and Union counties. She was the ranking member on the Local Government Committee and served on the Economic Growth, Environment & Energy Independence, Rebuild Iowa and Transportation committees, as well as the Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

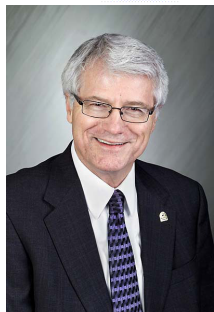
On June 24, 2010, Reynolds was named former Governor Terry Branstad's running mate, and on November 2, she was elected lieutenant governor of the State of Iowa.

She and her husband have three grown children: Nicole (Ryan Springer), Jennifer (Jason Fagan) and Jessica, and four grandchildren, Wyatt, Rush, Gavin and Avrie.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Benjamin J. Allen, President, University of Northern Iowa

Benjamin J. Allen was named the ninth president of the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) on April 28, 2006, and assumed his duties on June 5, 2006. He received his doctorate and master's degree in economics from the University of Illinois and his bachelor's of science degree in business economics from Indiana University.

President Allen was vice president for academic affairs and provost at Iowa State University (ISU) and was responsible to the president in all aspects of the academic programs at Iowa State. He has the distinction of having been named the first University Distinguished Professor in Business at ISU.

Before joining the ISU faculty in 1979, he taught at Washington State University and was a Brookings Economic Policy Fellow in the Office of Transportation Regulatory Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation. He was the Visiting McKinley Professor of Economics and Public Utilities at the University of Illinois in 1986-87 and held the Oren Harris Chair in Transportation at the University of Arkansas during the 1990-91 academic year. In 1999 he was appointed chairperson of the committee for the study of Freight Capacity for the Next Century, Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences.

In 2007, President Allen was appointed by two state college associations (the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) to the Presidential Advisory Committee for the National Commission of University Accountability. In June 2010, President Allen received a Congressional appointment to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). This committee is required by law to advise the Secretary of Education with respect to establishment and enforcement of the standards of accrediting agencies or associations.

Under his leadership, the University of Northern Iowa has established priorities of increasing student achievement in undergraduate programs and providing statewide leadership in Pre-K through 12 education, including UNI's lead role in the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership (IMSEP) with Iowa State University and the University of Iowa. He, along with the director of the Iowa Department of Education, is overseeing the development of the statewide Research and Development School.

In July 2011, Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds declared science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) a priority for our state. Governor Branstad has asked President Allen to serve as co-chair with Lieutenant Governor Reynolds of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council. President Allen also co-chairs the Iowa Business Council's Education Excellence in Iowa Roundtable, a non-partisan forum of business and education leaders focused on improving Pre-K through 16 academic achievement and establishing career development opportunities. He previously co-chaired the Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce, a non-profit educational foundation helping Iowa learners prepare for the global marketplace. A strong supporter of the local community, President Allen is a member of the executive committee of the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance. He and his wife, Pat, served as co-chairs of the 2010 Cedar Valley United Way Campaign.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Gary P. Scholten, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, The Principal Financial Group

Gary P. Scholten is the senior vice president and chief information officer of The Principal Financial Group, responsible for overseeing the company's use of Information Technology. He also leads the company's use of offshore resourcing and oversees sourcing and supplier management.

Scholten joined the company in 1980 as an assistant planning analyst. He was elected an officer and named assistant director in 1989, director of information systems in 1992, second vice president – information services in 1994, vice president – retail information services in 1998, and to his present position in 2002. A native of Larchwood, Iowa, Scholten received his bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Scholten is a fellow of the Life Office Management Institute and is past chair of the LOMA Individual Product Systems Committee. He chairs Principal Global Services, Private Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Principal Financial Group located in Pune, India. Scholten currently serves as chair of the board for the Technology Association of Iowa. In 2011, he was appointed to serve on the Iowa Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Advisory Council.

In his first year as CIO, Scholten was named to *Insurance & Technology* magazine's "2003 Elite 8" list, given annually to eight CIOs from across the country who are identified as making significant, measurable contributions to their organizations. Under Scholten's leadership, The Principal has consistently been ranked in the top half of *Computerworld* magazine's "100 Best Places to Work in IT" and *InformationWeek* magazine's "Top 500 Most Innovative Users of Information Technology," ranking as the number one company in 2006. Scholten received the University of Northern Iowa's 2011 Alumni Achievement Award for his overall professional accomplishments.



Cindy Dietz, Director, Public Relations & Employee Communications, Rockwell Collins

Cindy Dietz is Director, Public Relations & Employee Communications for Rockwell Collins. She was named to the position in September 2011. She is responsible for public relations/media, employee communications and community relations.

Prior to this role, Cindy served 13 years as Rockwell Collins' Manager of Community Relations and Executive Director of the Rockwell Collins Charitable Corporation. During this time she lead the company's global charitable giving and employee volunteer programs and created the corporation's strategic plan for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach.

She lead the business sector engagement in the development and adoption of Iowa's STEM Education Roadmap, which was completed in early 2011.

In addition to the Governor's STEM Advisory Council, Cindy participates on a number of state, regional and national boards, including the Aviation Industry Association's (AIA) STEM Education Workforce Steering Committee, Iowa's Project Lead the Way (PLTW) state steering committee and the United Way of East Central Iowa.

Cindy is a native Iowan and holds a Journalism/Mass Communications degree from Iowa State University. She enjoys running, biking, hiking and spending time with her husband, KC, and two teenage daughters.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Leann Jacobson, Director, Technology Association of Iowa

Leann Jacobson brings over 25 years of business and entrepreneurial experience, including 18 years at AT&T, to her role as president of the Technology Association of Iowa (TAI). Her tenure at AT&T included leadership positions in sales, marketing and government affairs. In 2001 she founded Capitol Gains, a multi-client public policy firm, and served as its president and chief lobbyist. The firm successfully represented a broad portfolio of clients focused on business and commerce, child welfare, arts and culture, and economic development. In 2005 she accepted the role of president of TAI, where she has since strategically executed on its mission to promote and grow technology in Iowa.



Michelle Gowdy, Senior Manager Community Investment, Pioneer Hi-Bred, A DuPont Business

Michelle Gowdy is Senior Manager Community Investment for Pioneer Hi-Bred, A DuPont Business. In this role, she is responsible for determination of the strategic philanthropic direction, employee volunteerism, coordination of external educational outreach and management of university relationships. Pioneer supports community betterment, STEM education and food security initiatives.

Michelle joined Pioneer in August 2011. Prior to that, she spent 10 years at John Deere Finance, where she served roles of increasing responsibility, finally as compliance manager for global operations. She has had more than 25 years of finance and leadership experience.

Michelle holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in accounting from Iowa State University. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. Michelle co-chairs the American Heart Association Go Red for Women luncheon and serves on the following community boards and councils: Business Volunteer Council - President, BRAVO, Des Moines Botanical Garden, Des Moines Social Club Capital Campaign, Greater Des Moines Community Foundation Grant Committee, Governor's STEM Advisory Council - Pioneer Executive Delegate and Capital Crossroads Education Initiative.



Craig Johnson, Executive Director, Iowa Academy of Science

Craig Johnson is a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and has served as the Executive Director of the Iowa Academy of Science since 2004. He holds degrees in meteorology and communications from the University of Utah and served as broadcast meteorologist for 30 years at KUTV in Salt Lake City, WMT in Cedar Rapids, KWWL in Waterloo and FOX 28 in Cedar Rapids. He has been a frequent speaker to schools, civic groups and professional organizations about the science of meteorology. He owns Weather Briefing, L.C. in Cedar Falls. Craig and his wife, Anita, have raised three children and live in Cedar Falls.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Raynard S. Kington, President, Grinnell College

Dr. Raynard S. Kington was appointed President of Grinnell College in August 2010. Prior to coming to Grinnell, he served in a range of positions at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including NIH Principal Deputy Director and NIH Acting Director, NIH Associate Director for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, and Acting Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Prior to NIH, he was a division director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where he led the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), one of the nation's largest studies assessing the health of the American people. He has been a Senior Scientist at the RAND Corporation, was the Co-Director of the Charles R. Drew University/RAND Center on Health and Aging, and has served as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at UCLA. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science in 2006.

Dr. Kington attended the University of Michigan, where he received his B.S. with distinction and his M.D. He subsequently completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago. He was then appointed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. While at the University of Pennsylvania, he completed his M.B.A. with distinction and his Ph.D. with a concentration in Health Policy and Economics at the Wharton School and was awarded a Fontaine Fellowship. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Kington values an inclusive management style and clear, thoughtful, and fair decision-making processes. His personal and professional lives are rooted in a deep commitment to social responsibility, and a priority for his tenure as President is strengthening the connection between academic excellence in the Arts, Humanities, Sciences and Social Studies, and graduates' ability to go into the world and transform it.



Rob Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College

Rob Denson was appointed the fourth President of Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) on November 1, 2003. He grew up on a farm near Homestead, Iowa, south of the Amana Colonies and graduated from high school in Marengo, Iowa. He is the first native born Iowan to be president of DMACC.

DMACC served 38,099 credit and over 33,000 non-credit students in 2010-2011, having grown over 50 percent in the past 5 years.

Rob has a B.S. in Political Science and Economics and a Masters Degree in Higher Education Administration from Iowa State University (ISU). He worked for ISU as an Assistant Dean for three years before moving to Florida where he served as an Assistant Dean of Students. He graduated from law school at the University of Florida in 1979 and was an Associate University Attorney for three years before operating his own law practice for 16 years. He is a board certified civil trial lawyer. In 1996, he became Assistant to the President and Dean for Institutional Advancement at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida.

In 1998, Rob returned to Iowa as President of Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar, Iowa, where the college saw a 58 percent enrollment increase during his five-year tenure.

Rob "loves his job" at DMACC and believes in success, teams and positive thinking.

He and his wife, Pat, have two children and four grandchildren.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Deb Dunkhase, Executive Director, The Iowa Children's Museum

For the past twenty-four years, Deb Dunkhase has dedicated herself to education in the state of Iowa. Her work has involved direct teaching with children and leadership roles working closely with parent and teacher groups to bridge the gap between formal and informal education. Ms. Dunkhase served as the University of Iowa project field coordinator for the nationally recognized "Science PALs" program. The Science PALs program was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve the scientific literacy of elementary grade students through the use of children's literature and parent involvement in over 75 science classrooms across the state of Iowa. The Science PALs program was awarded the FINE Award (First in the Nation in Education) for its impact on elementary science education.

Ms. Dunkhase now serves as the Executive Director for The Iowa Children's Museum, an effective nonprofit organization in Coralville, Iowa, that serves over 140,000 children by inspiring every child to imagine, create, discover and explore through the power of play and active learning.



Teresa Wahlert, Director, Iowa Workforce Development

Teresa Wahlert began her career in Data Systems for Northwestern Bell in Omaha, NE, holding a variety of positions including: District Manager – Finance at AT&T headquarters in New York in 1981; General Finance Manager, Omaha in 1983; and Assistant Vice President – Finance for U S WEST in 1986. In 1995, Wahlert became the first female to head the Iowa operations, employing 2,300 people serving 750,000 customers. She retired from QWEST in 2002 after 32 years of service.

In 2003, Wahlert was named President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership where she had operational oversight and fund-raising efforts for this public/private partnership. In 2004, she was named President and COO of Mid-America Group, a regional real estate, investment and development firm, retiring in 2008.

Governor Terry Branstad appointed Teresa Wahlert as the Director of Iowa Workforce Development in January 2011. She leads the agency to help meet the Governor's goals to create 200,000 jobs in Iowa, reduce the cost of government by 15 percent, increase family incomes by 25 percent, and make Iowa number one in the nation for education.

A native of Dubuque, she holds an M.S. in Business as a Sloan Fellow from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), as well as an MBA from Creighton University and a B.S. from St. Mary's College at Notre Dame. Wahlert lives in Waukee, Iowa, with her husband, Howard, and has three grown children and one grandchild.



Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Meeting II | January 25, 2012 | 9:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
The Principal Financial Group | 711 High Street | Des Moines



Debi Durham, Director, Iowa Economic Development Authority

Governor Terry E. Branstad appointed Debi Durham Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) in January 2011. As one of her first orders of business, Debi worked with the Governor and legislators to restructure the department to create a public-private partnership to update and improve Iowa's delivery of economic development services. That led to the creation of the Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress – the umbrella organization for the new structure. Debi now serves as the Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the public arm that replaces IDED and oversees the traditional economic development programs.

Prior to leading Iowa's economic development initiatives, Ms Durham served as President of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce since July 1995. She also served as President of The Siouxland Initiative (TSI), the economic development corporation serving the tri-state metropolitan area, and the Siouxland Chamber Foundation. In both 2007 and 2008, TSI was recognized as one of the "Top-Ten" economic development groups in the nation.

In June 2009, the Downtown Rotary Club in Sioux City recognized Durham as their Key Way Award winner. The annual recipient is recognized as a local leader who has "contributed greatly to the health and prosperity of the area through business and community involvement." Durham was also recognized by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry as one of "Five Iowa Women You Should Know" in 2007. In 2003, she was named to the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame and was the Republican Lieutenant Gubernatorial candidate in 2002.

Debi holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Marketing and Management degree from Missouri Southern State University. Durham and her husband, Joel, have two children, Beau and Jordan.



Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council

Jeffrey Weld, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Governor's STEM Advisory Council and Director of the inter-university collaborative that is known as the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership (IMSEP). Dr. Weld is also Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Jeff earned a doctorate in science education with an emphasis in ecology and endocrinology from the University of Iowa in 1998 after teaching high school biology and chemistry for eleven years in Mission, Texas; Kirkwood, Missouri; and Pella, Iowa. Ciba-Geigy named Jeff the 1993 Life Science Teacher of the Year for Iowa; Pella Corporation honored Jeff with the Focus on Teaching Excellence Award in 1994; and in 1995 Genentech awarded Jeff one of only 50 Access Excellence Fellowships from across the U.S.A.

As a university faculty member, first at Oklahoma State University from 1998 to 2000 and then at UNI from 2000 to the present, Jeff's research focuses on the barriers to innovative science teaching at the high school and collegiate levels and how to overcome them. Jeff has authored more than fifty research articles, essays and book chapters, along with the textbook *The Game of Science Education* published in 2004. He is past president of the Iowa Science Teachers Association and of UNI's chapter of Sigma Xi — the scientific research society. In 2007, Jeff was recognized as the College Biology Teacher of the Year (four-year institutions) by the National Association of Biology Teachers. He has directed the Iowa Mathematics and Science Education Partnership since 2008 and the Governor's STEM Advisory Council since fall 2011.